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February 14, 2020

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

The Honorable Jocelyn G. Boyd Chief Clerk/Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 Columbia SC 29210

Re: South Carolina Energy Freedom Act (House Bill 3659) Proceeding Related to S.C.

Code Ann. Section 58-37-40 and Integrated Resource Plans for Duke Energy

Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC

Docket Number: 2019-224-E (Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC) Docket Number: 2019-225-E (Duke Energy Progress, LLC)

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC ("DEC") and Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP")(collectively, the "Companies") have reviewed the comments filed by the other parties on January 30, 2020 in the above-referenced dockets. As communicated in the Companies' filings, the Companies believe that stakeholder engagement is an important endeavor. The Companies have scheduled a Stakeholder Workshop regarding the South Carolina Integrated Resource Plan on March 17, 2020 in Columbia, South Carolina, at which time the parties will have an additional opportunity to provide their input on IRP filing requirements and procedural steps. The Companies have hired an independent facilitator in light of the comments received in this Docket to assist with the session. Additionally, the March 17th IRP Workshop is just one of multiple stakeholder events the Companies are using to obtain input as the Companies develop their IRPs and Integrated System and Operations Planning program.

It is important to note that the Companies operate regulated utility systems that span both South Carolina and North Carolina. As a result, the Companies must produce a single IRP for DEC and a single IRP for DEP, each of which is filed in South and North Carolina. We believe that the process the Companies are undergoing to solicit feedback from interested parties across both states will allow the Companies to meet their September 2020 deadline. Those filings, and outcomes from those filings, will certainly inform future IRPs.

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The Companies look forward to sharing their views on the IRP requirements and procedural schedule with the participants attending the March 17th IRP-focused session of the Stakeholder Workshops and are interested in hearing the concerns and feedback of the attendees.

Sincerely,

Heather Shirley Smith
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cc: Parties of record